DECLASSIFIED

SUNDAY
JUNE 21, 1953

I woke at five o'clock in brilliant light announcing a perfect day (which it turned out later to be). We breakfasted with one of the General Electric people who early this morning had shot three wild boars.

Eugène and I motored off at 7:15, but between Malmédy and Spa ran into a road block, set up because of today's Belgian royal automobile race. This necessitated a wide detour, and I missed any chance of taking the 11:00 o'clock train at Brussels. Instead, we went through Liège to Namur, Beaumont, Soissons, and reached Paris at 5:30, our only stop being for twenty minutes when we had an extraordinarily good lunch at La Crémaillère in Avesnes, France. It was quite a fatiguing trip. I arrived home just in time to share a bottle of champagne with Lauder Greenway.

The hunting lodge, about 70 miles from Trier, is in beautiful country where one still sees reminders of desperate fighting during the war. The extensive cement German redoubts and blockhouses have all been blown up, but miles of anti-tank dragon teeth remain. The great rebuilding in Germany and Belgium is in striking contrast to the infrequent reconstruction activities in France. One gets the impression even in my various hasty trips of tremendous vitality in Belgium and Germany and of an apathy in France which is disturbing for the future.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED